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Amendments to the Specification

Please replace the original title of this application with

Wide-Angle Enclosed Lens Type Retroreflective Sheet and External Illumination System

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 7, line 4 as follows:

[0012] A conventional enclosed lens type of retroreflective sheet will now be described with reference to FIG. 8A. First, a surface layer 10 is produced on a processing substrate. This surface layer 10 is then coated with a resin solution that forms a glass sphere fixing layer 11. This coating is then dried to disperse the glass spheres 13 in a still tacky state in the glass sphere fixing layer 11. This or another such method is used to bond the glass spheres to the glass sphere fixing layer 11, after which the fixing layer 11 is heated, which submerges the glass spheres 13 and thermally cures the fixing layer 11, thereby sufficiently fixing the glass spheres 13. In the next step, the surface of the glass spheres 13 is coated with a resin solution that forms a focusing layer 12, and this coating is dried. In this case, the glass sphere fixing layer 11 is adjusted to a thickness that is from 50 to 80% of the diameter of the glass spheres 13 when the glass spheres have been submerged. The glass spheres are fixed in a state of just reaching the surface layer. In the figures, 15 is a pressure sensitive adhesive layer and 16 is a release material.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 8, line 1 as follows:

[0015] Also, the focusing layer resin solution undergoes volumetric shrinkage when the focusing layer resin solution coating is dried, and this shrinkage stress tries to cause the coating to go around to the back side of the glass spheres and form an ideal concentric circle. If the focusing layer 12 could be formed in a uniform thickness at the focal position of the glass spheres, then as shown in FIG. 8B, incident light b1 from the front would be reflected by the metal reflective layer 14 on the back side of the glass sphere focusing layer, and retroreflected as reflected light b2 substantially parallel to the direction of incidence, while incident light c1 that comes in obliquely also would be retroreflected as reflected light c2 substantially parallel to the direction of incidence. In actual practice, however, the focusing layer solution also comes into contact with the fixing layer between the glass spheres, and the focusing layer solution is attracted to the

fixing layer in the course of drying, or flows to a lower position under the force of gravity. As a result, the focusing layer resin is hindered from forming a concentric circle, so the back side of the glass spheres ends up being thinner and the lateral sides thicker, forming the focusing layer shown in FIG. 8C.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 11, line 11 as follows:

[FIG. 7] FIG. 7 is a diagram of a conventional retroreflective sheet used for explaining the observation angle and the incidence angle of the present invention.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 43, line 27 as follows:

[0139] FIG. 6 illustrates a conventional encapsulated lens type high-intensity retroreflective sheet ("HI" in the right photographs) and the retroreflective sheet of Working Example 1 of the present invention ("wide-angle reflection" in the left photographs), with A being in the daytime and B at nighttime, assuming that the retroreflective sheet is used as a direction marking on a roadway. The nighttime photographs in B were taken from a location with an observation angle of 4°, with the light incident on the road markings at an angle of 70°. It is clear from FIG. 6 that the products of the working examples of the present invention (on the left side) are capable of good retroreflection even when the light is incident from a wide-angle location in the nighttime, and the observation angle can be increased.